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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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[REDACTED] the news of the purge of L.P. Beriya was interpreted as an entirely internal matter of the USSR. Beriya's downfall was considered to be the result of a violent conflict over the controlling power which had been going on for some time among the strongest and best known personalities of the regime. It was also believed that Beriya's fall was brought about by "military elements" which allegedly supported Malenkov.

2. Yugoslav circles do not believe that it was Beriya who favored the present Soviet "detente" policy toward the West. This policy does not come from the personal work of only one individual, but rather from the collective work of a group of men headed by Malenkov, who quickly and ably succeeded in imposing himself upon the others.
3. As a result of this reasoning, Yugoslav circles are convinced that even after the publicized Beriya case, the Soviet government will not change its tactics but will continue to follow the policy adopted immediately after the death of Stalin.

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